

that means that the most wealthy Americans benefited by not having the Bush tax cuts to the tune of a 285 percent increase in the stock market.

In contrast to that, since the Bush tax cuts were enacted, the stock market has actually gone down over the past 9 years by 11 percent. So I ask you whether you are working, whether you are not working, whether you are poor, whether you are middle class, whether you are rich, isn't it obvious what will happen if we extend these tax cuts any further? Whether it's for 1 year or for 2 years or for another 9 lean years. I think the answer is obvious. Fewer jobs, higher unemployment, a lower value to our homes, lower value to the Nation's net worth, and a drop in the stock market. That's the future that we face if we extend these pernicious tax cuts further.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### JOHN LENNON 30TH COMMEMORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. The poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote, "For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been.'"

Mr. Speaker, given the prevalence of tenebrous sadness in our oft benighted world, tonight on the 30th commemoration of the murder of Mr. John Ono Lennon, I rise not to lament his inestimable loss, but to celebrate his inspiring life.

Perpetually along our earthly journey, we stand at the crossroads of comfort and truth. Imperfect souls, we are mercifully measured not solely by our missteps into numbing comfort but also by our redemptive return to enlightening truth.

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As shown in a recently released 1980 interview with Rolling Stone's Jonathan Cott, Mr. Lennon understood this. "I've never claimed purity of soul. I've never claimed to have the answers to life. I only put out songs and answer questions as honestly as I can. But I still believe in peace, love, and understanding."

Striving for honesty is how, in his family life, Mr. Lennon ultimately fulfilled his most challenging and rewarding role, that of devoted father and loving husband. Striving for honesty is how, in his music, Mr. Lennon met the artistic challenge expressed by Andre Bazin, namely, to "have the last word in the argument with death by means of the form that endures."

Thus, because truth is beauty, beauty is truth, and the most beautiful truth is love, I thank Mr. Lennon for striving through his enduring art to reveal the immutable human truths that eternally unite us in our mortality, our frailty, and our beauty when we love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of John Ono Lennon, and in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his widow and sons, to all whom he loved, and to all who love him. May he, and we, all shine on.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GRAVES of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PUTTING AMERICA BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK ECONOMICALLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to be able to join you and my colleagues this evening. We have had a busy day and dealt with a lot of different questions and issues. And, yet, on the minds of Americans I believe all across our country people are thinking about the economy, they are thinking particularly about jobs, and they are also thinking about what appears to be imminently approaching, at least the beginning of the new year, the largest tax increase in the history of our country.

That's an odd thing to be approaching at a time when there is a high level of unemployment and a lot of uncertainty in terms of the economy. And of course that is a matter of some considerable debate and discussion and different political maneuvering. We won't talk so much tonight about political maneuvering, but try to stick more in the area of some understanding of economics and the things that we need to be doing to put America back on the right track.

I think Americans really want Congress to fix it. They don't want to hear a lot of discussion and talk. They want to know let's just get things organized, get it straightened out, get the economy going, get people back to work. You know, there is a choice people really have in our country of two different things. One, you can have bureaucracy and food stamps, or you can have a job and a paycheck. I think most people in America really want a job and a paycheck.

So that's what we are going to talk about tonight. I am joined by a couple of my esteemed colleagues, people that are very long on common sense, so they are my friends, but also people that I believe that very much are respected not only by their own delegations, the people that elected them, but increasingly known across the country.

I am joined by my good friend Dr. GINGREY. I don't know how many careers he's had. That's why he got the